

October 28, 2004

Attn: Potential Subcontractor
Subject: JPL Request for Proposal (RFP) No. MFS-2672-593438 for Mars Very Deep Drilling Concept Study.

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) invites your organization to submit a written proposal in conformance with the instructions contained in this letter and its enclosures, which comprise the RFP for JPL's acquisition of the subject effort.

The Mars Exploration Program (MEP) is a NASA Space Science program dedicated to the exploration of Mars. Through NASA funding, technology is well on its way toward the development of robotic drills capable of reaching 10-20 meters below the surface of Mars. On behalf of NASA, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) is now exploring the feasibility of extending that depth to the range of 100 meters to 1 km, to both access materials of scientific interest and to investigate the potential for usable resources. Because of the difficulty of getting payloads to the Martian surface, the constrained nature of these payloads (in mass, power, and volume), and the need to limit potential contamination of samples, JPL is seeking concepts for very deep robotic drilling to enable future planning. Due to both the cost of getting material to Mars, and the remote location, we are especially interested in autonomous, lightweight robotic drilling systems.

This RFP is for a six-month effort to include examination of a wide range of deep drilling approaches. It is planned to award multiple study subcontracts valued up to \$100,000.00 each. The subcontracts will be awarded via the JPL competitive source evaluation and source selection process.

Provide the name of your cognizant Government Audit Agency (i.e., DCAA, etc.), if any, their phone number and point of contact, and any copy of a letter that indicates their approval of your rates.

Please note that your proposal is due at JPL no later than November 19, 2004, 3:00 PM Pacific Time. As a convenience to JPL, you are requested to provide the undersigned, by no later than November 5, 2004, a fax or e-mail statement that you do or do not intend to submit a proposal.

Should you have any questions, please address them to the undersigned by phone or e-mail.

Very truly yours,



Michele Schneider
Subcontracts Manager
Phone No.: (818) 354-5605
Fax No.: (818) 354-3494
E-mail: Michele.F.Schneider@jpl.nasa.gov



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena CA 91109-8099

Enclosures:

RFP consisting of:

- Cover Sheet and Table of Contents
- General Instructions
- Technical/Management Instructions
- Cost Instructions
- RFP Attachments

Specimen Contract consisting of:

- Specimen Contract
- Referenced Exhibits
- Referenced GPs & AGPs